

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 18. (Currently amended) A license issuing system in which a license-issuing
2 computer, a seller computer, and a purchaser computer are coupled to communicate with each
3 other, wherein:

4 the seller computer requests input of client information, product information and
5 license program information ~~to~~ from the purchaser computer;

6 upon receiving the ~~information request~~, the purchaser computer transfers the client
7 information, the product information and the license program information to the seller computer;

8 the seller computer transfers a first license request including the product
9 information and the license program information, but not the client information, to the license-
10 issuing computer;

11 the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key for the program specified by
12 the license program information upon authentication of the first license request ~~product~~
13 ~~information received from the seller computer; and~~

14 the seller computer receives said trial license key from the license-issuing
15 computer and transfers said trial license key to the purchaser computer based on the client
16 information;

17 at a predetermined time before expiration of the trial license key, the seller
18 computer notifies the purchaser computer of said expiration and provides cost information for
19 the program specified by the license program information;

20 the purchaser computer responds to the notification and requests a special license
21 key or a paid license key for the program specified by the license program information, said
22 special license key being operative to extend the trial license key;

23 the seller computer transfers a second license request indicating the license key
24 requested by the purchaser computer, but not including the customer information, to the license-
25 issuing computer; and

26 upon authentication of the second license request, the license-issuing computer
27 issues a second license key for the program specified by the license program information, said
28 second license key being a special license key or a paid license key;

29 the seller computer receives the second license key from the license-issuing
30 computer and transfers it to the purchaser computer based on the client information.

1 19. (Currently amended) A license key issuing system, comprising:

2 a purchaser computer ~~for receiving~~that provides -client information, product
3 information and license program information to a seller computer;

4 a seller computer connected with the purchaser computer ~~to that~~ receives the
5 client information, the product information, and the license program information from the
6 purchaser computer, and in response ~~provide~~ generates a first license request including the
7 product information and the license program information, but not the client information;
8 ; ~~together with a request for a license key;~~

9 a license-issuing computer connected with the seller computer and operable to
10 receive the first license request ~~product information, the license program information, and the~~
11 ~~request for a license key~~ from the seller computer, and in response issue a trial license key to the
12 seller computer upon authentication of the product information;

13 wherein the seller computer ~~is further configured to receives~~ the trial license key
14 and transmits the trial license key to the purchaser computer and, at a predetermined time before
15 expiration of the trial license key, the seller computer notifies the purchaser computer of said
16 expiration and provides cost information for the program specified by the license program
17 information,

18 wherein the purchaser computer responds to the notification and requests a special
19 license key or a paid license key for the program specified by the license program information,
20 said special license key being operative to extend the trial license key,

21 wherein the seller computer transfers a second license request indicating the
22 license key requested by the purchaser computer, but not including the customer information, to
23 the license-issuing computer,

24 wherein, upon authentication of the second license request, the license-issuing
25 computer issues a second license key, said second license key being a special license key or a
26 paid license key for the program specified by the license program information, and
27 wherein the seller computer receives the second license key from the license-
28 issuing computer and transfers it to the purchaser computer based on the client information.

1 20. (Currently amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for
2 issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:

3 program code which allows the license-issuing computer to extract product
4 information and license program information from a first license request, wherein ~~any~~-client
5 information has been removed by a seller computer sending the first license request, wherein the
6 license program information and the client information are provided by an individual to the seller
7 computer; and

8 program code which authenticates the product information and issues a trial
9 license key to the seller computer to send to the individual for a program specified by the license
10 program information;-

11 program code which allows the license-issuing computer to extract product
12 information and license program information from a second license request prior to expiration of
13 the trial license key,

14 wherein client information has been removed by a seller computer sending the
15 second license request, and the second license request specifies a special license key or a paid
16 license key; and

17 program code which authenticates the product information and issues a special
18 license key or a paid license key to the seller computer according to the second license request.

1 21. (Currently amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for
2 issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:

3 program code which allows the license-issuing computer to receive a first license
4 request comprising a product number, and a license program name, and a trial license key, but
5 not client information, from a seller computer for a purchaser who sends the product number, the
6 license program name, the trial license key, and the client information to the seller computer; and

7 program code which authenticates the ~~product number~~first license request, and in
8 response issues a trial license key to the seller computer to send to the purchaser to allow use of a
9 program specified by the license program name for a given time;-

10 ~~program code which allows the license-issuing computer to receive a second~~
11 license request from the seller computer prior to expiration of the trial license key, wherein the
12 second license request specifies a special license key or a paid license key for the program
13 specified by the license program information, said special license key being operative to extend
14 the trial license key; and

15 ~~program code which authenticates the second license request and, accordingly,~~
16 issues a special license key or a paid license key to the seller computer to send to the purchaser
17 for the program specified by the license program information.

1 22. (Currently amended) A license-issuing computer as in claim 21 ~~eharacterized~~
2 ~~in that wherein~~ the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key, a special license key, or a
3 paid license key for a program stored in a data storage system.

1 23. (Canceled) ~~A license-issuing computer connected to a network for issuing~~
2 ~~license keys, the license-issuing computer including:~~

3 ~~program code which allows the license-issuing computer to receive a product~~
4 ~~number, a license program name, but not client information, from a seller computer for a~~
5 ~~purchaser;~~

6 ~~program code which allows the license-issuing computer to perform~~
7 ~~authentication of the product number and to issue a trial license key to the seller computer to~~
8 ~~send to the purchaser to allow limited use of the license program by the purchaser; and~~

9 ~~program code which allows the license-issuing computer to authenticate the trial~~
10 ~~license key when the license-issuing computer receives the license program name and the trial~~
11 ~~license key from the seller computer, and which issues a paid license key, for an authenticated~~
12 ~~trial license key, to the seller computer to send to the purchaser.~~

1 24. (Currently amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a
2 license key by a license-issuing computer in response to a license request from a purchaser
3 computer through a network, the seller computer including:

4 program code which requests client information, product information, and license
5 program information from the purchaser computer;

6 program code which receives the client information, the product information, and
7 the license program information from the purchaser computer, and which transmits a first license
8 request comprising only the product information and the license program information to the
9 license-issuing computer; and

10 program code which receives ~~the~~ a trial license key from the license-issuing
11 computer in response to the first license request and transmits the trial license key to the
12 purchaser computer;

13 program code which requests license selection information from the purchaser
14 computer prior to expiration of the trial license key;

15 program code which receives the license selection information from the purchaser
16 computer, said license selection information specifying a special license key or a paid license
17 key, and which transmits a second license request to the license-issuing computer; and

18 program code which receives a second license key from the license-issuing
19 computer in response to the second license request, said second license key including a special
20 license key or a paid license key according to the license selection information, and transmits the
21 second license key to the purchaser computer.

1 25. (Currently amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a
2 license key by a license-issuing computer in response to a license request from a purchaser
3 computer, the seller computer including:-

4 program code which receives client information, product information, and license
5 program information from the purchaser computer and transmits a first license request
6 comprising only the product information and the license program information to the license-
7 issuing computer; and

8 program code which receives ~~the~~ a trial license key from the license-issuing
9 computer in response to the first license request and transmits the trial license key to the
10 purchaser computer;

11 program code which receives license selection information from a purchaser
12 computer prior to expiration of the trial license key, said license selection information specifying

13 a special license key or a paid license key, and transmits a second license request to the license-
14 issuing computer; and
15 program code which receives a second license key from the license-issuing
16 computer in response to said second license request and transmits the second license key to the
17 purchaser computer.

1 26. (Currently amended) A seller computer which requests a trial license key to
2 allow use of a computer program for a trial period, and a special license key which extends the
3 trial period in response to a request from a purchaser computer through a network, the seller
4 computer including:

5 means for receiving input of a product number, a license program name, and a
6 trial license key from a purchaser;

7 means for providing a license key received from a license-issuing computer;

8 means for requesting input of client information, the product number, and the
9 license program name from the purchaser computer;

10 means for receiving the client information, the product information, and the
11 license program information from the purchaser computer and transmitting only one of (1) the
12 product information and the license program information to the license-issuing computer, or (2)
13 the product number, the license program name, and the trial license key to the license-issuing
14 computer; and

15 means for receiving ~~the~~ an authenticated trial license key from the license-issuing
16 computer and transmitting the authenticated trial license key to the purchaser computer.

1 27. (Currently amended) A method for a seller computer to request a license key
2 from a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser computer through a
3 network, the method comprising:

4 a step in which the seller computer receives a first license request comprising
5 client information, a product number and a license program name from a purchaser computer;

6 a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number and the license
7 program name of the first license request, but not the client information, to the license-issuing
8 computer;

9 a step in which the seller computer receives a trial license key to allow use of the
10 program for a given period;

11 a step in which the seller computer transmits the trial license key to the purchaser
12 computer;

13 a step in which the seller computer ~~inputs~~ receives a second license request
14 comprising the client information, the product number, the license program name and the trial
15 license key communicated from a purchaser; ~~therein~~,

16 a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number, the license
17 program name and the trial license key of the second license request to the license-issuing
18 computer,

19 a step in which the seller computer receives a special license key for extending a
20 trial period by the trial license key from the license-issuing computer, and

21 a step in which the seller computer transmits the special license key to the
22 purchaser.

1 28. (Currently amended) A licensing issuing method of a license issuing system
2 comprising a license-issuing computer, a seller computer, a purchaser computer, and a network
3 which connects the license-issuing computer, the seller computer and the purchaser computer,
4 wherein:

5 the license-issuing computer requests ~~input of~~ client information, product
6 information, and license program information from the purchaser computer to send to the seller
7 computer;

8 the purchaser computer transfers the client information, the product information,
9 and the license program information to the seller computer in response to the request from the
10 license-issuing computer;

11 the seller computer ~~transfers~~ transmits a first license request comprising the
12 product information and the license program information, but not the client information, to the
13 license-issuing computer; ~~and~~

14 the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key for a program specified by
15 the license program information, upon authentication of the ~~product information~~ first license
16 request, to the seller computer to send to the purchaser computer.

1 29. (Currently amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing computer
2 which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,
3 the license issuing method including:

4 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives a first license request
5 comprising product information, license program information, but not client information, from
6 data input by a purchaser and sent to via a seller computer;

7 a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the ~~product~~
8 ~~information~~first license request; and

9 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key for a
10 program specified by the ~~license program information~~ first license request to the seller computer
11 when the authentication is normally finished to be sent to the purchaser;

12 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives a second license request
13 specifying a special license key or a paid license key from the purchaser via the seller computer,
14 the special license key operative to extend the trial license key;

15 a step in which, upon authenticating the second license request, the license-
16 issuing computer transmits a special license key or a paid license key according to the second
17 license request to the seller computer to be sent to the purchaser.

1 30. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein the license-issuing
2 computer issues a license key for a program specified by a license program name.

1 31. (Currently amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing computer
2 which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,
3 the license issuing method including:

4 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives a first license request
5 comprising a product number and a license program name, but not client information, the
6 product number, the client information, and the license program name provided by the purchaser
7 to a seller computer;

8 a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the ~~product number~~first
9 license request;

10 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key in response
11 to the first license request to the seller to be sent to the purchaser to allow use of a program
12 specified by the license program name for a given period;

13 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives a second license request
14 comprising the product number, the license program name, and the trial license key;

15 a step in which the license-issuing computer performs authentication of the
16 second license request~~trial license key~~; and

17 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a special license key to the
18 seller computer upon authenticating the second license request to send to the purchaser which
19 extends a trial period.

1 32. (Currently amended) A license issuing method ~~characterized in that the~~
2 ~~license issuing method~~ according to claim 31 wherein the license-issuing computer issues the a
3 license key for a program installed in a data storage system.